funds have been released as central assistance for the growth centres in Rajasthan:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the growth centre	Central assistance released
Aub-Road	1000.00
Bhilwara	300.00
Khara (Bikaner)	450.00
Dholpur	320.00
Jhalawar	300.00

The Central assistance is released after taking into consideration the physical and financial progress made by the State Government in implementation of the Growth Centre.

(e) There is no request pending for any additional Growth Centre in Rajasthan.

Coordinated Action at W.T.O.

1843. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have coordinated any action with countries having similar policy attitude after the Seattle meets;

(b) if go, what were those initiatives; and

(c) what is Government's plan to raise similar issues unitedly in the world forum in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and(b)As part of post-Seattle efforts, India actively participated as a Member of the G-77 Group of Developing Countires in the Tenth Session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which was held from 12—19 February, 2000 in Bangkok, wherein a Plan of Action was adopted which incorporates the main issues of concern of developing counstries. The Session *inter alia* noted that "In the course of the implementation of the WTO Agreements, most developing countries consider that certain imbalances and asymmetries exist.....These problems need to be addressed

urgently so as to ensure that the multilateral trading system results in mutual benefits for all countries." It was also stated that "developing countries need policy flexibility to support and promote their enterprises, investments in production and marketing, and export expansion and diversification." Besides on the side lines of the UNCTAD meetings, bilateral and plurilateral meetings were held to evolve a common stand with like minded group of countries on the various WTO issues especially to garner their support for rejecting the linkage of trade with labour.

(c) The Government will continue with their efforts to build up solidarity with the other like minded group of countries with a view to evolving a united stand on important issues at various world fora including at WTO.

Advice of National Advisory Committee on International Trade

1844. SHRINARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Natioal Advisory Committee on International Trade has advised the Commerce and Industry Ministry to prioritise India's interests before resumption of WTO talks;

(b) if so, will Government be utilising this available time towards building solidarity among developing nations so that inclusion of non trade issues on WTO agenda could be opposed; and

(c) what efforts have been made with result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) During the sixth meeting of the Advisory Committee on International Trade held on 3rd February, 2000, the post-Seattle scenario was reviewed and the possible policy options for India were analysed. The Committee fully endorsed India's stand as taken at Seattle and requested the Government to continue to effectively project India's interests at WTO while resisting the inclusion of non trade issues in the WTO agenda. In this regard, the Government will continue their efforts of building up solidarity with the other like minded group of countries with a view to facilitate the projection of Indian interest and oppose the inclusion of non trade issues on the WTO agenda.

(c) As post Seattle efforts, India actively participated in the Tenth Session of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held at Bangkok, from 12—19 February, 2000, wherein a Plan of Action was adopted